

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2021

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear IAAGT Community:

The 2021 AGM was held during the third weekend of July, facing the challenge of maintaining it online. My gratitude to all those involved in making this happen.

Throughout the three days' gathering, the attendees co-created a community experience, an enriching journey to our "selves" and our "self" as community. It was a journey of connection, reflection, dialogue, art and fun.

We shared some ideas and came up with more questions than answers that all together invite us to continue our journey and find different paths that can lead us to strengthen our process of dialogue, sense of community, and inclusiveness. We have many challenges to face and address.

I want to deeply honor our history as an organization, the foundational dreams and goals from many people that started this beloved Gestalt Community. Those dreams and goals that get us together and give us a strong sense of purpose as a group.

It is my hope that throughout the different community gatherings, the various interest groups, committees' works, the constitutional review process, as well as our conference in May 2022, we continue honoring our history and our dialogical process in a way that we follow up our original purpose while facing the challenges of our here and now.

Warmly,

Eduardo Rubio
IAAGT President

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LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT ELECT



Summer's almost over. For me it was ... quieter in some ways, worrisome in others, too short, welcome.

Quieter because so much remains inaccessible where I live; we aren't locked down (at least not yet), but not everything is open indoors – and winter is coming. It means I stay closer to home, and I'm beginning to get used to this.

Worrisome short term and long term. Restless. Reluctant. Uncertain. How does one plan for anything when we don't know how the world around us locally and globally will be in a month or a year? The fires that are raging North and West of me ... the drought in some regions and flooding in others. The imbalance that is being reflected all around me.

Too short, as summer always is for me. Never enough of the lush beauty of summer, in spite of the horrors of climate change. This brief time is more precious, possibly, than if I were living in a more temperate climate.

Welcome. Even though I feel a little as if I were in exile from where I want to be, having to be separated from my family in many real ways – not only due to the pandemic, but for other reasons – I like a challenge, and there have been many new challenges of late.

All of this has been reflected in our Gestalt community, and we are finding our way through it. The online AGM this summer was an experiment – an online space, shared in as many ways as the planning team could dream up, to help us explore our worries, disappointments and desires.

Some of what emerged will help me as co-chair of the 2022 conference in Ireland to plan for that event in a way that resonates with what I heard. Much of it will be carried forward to the community meetings at the conference.

I feel we are learning to adapt to this new uncertain life circumstance, and really do welcome the new challenges it brings me personally and our Gestalt community.

Maryanne

Maryanne Nicholls
Vice President Elect, IAAGT

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2022 IAAGT CONFERENCE - IRELAND



Ireland's Cliffs of Moher

Join us for the IAAGT Conference!

May 17 – 22, 2022

We are delighted to announce that our 2020 postponed conference is scheduled to take place in the same majestic, natural environment of Ennistymon, Co. Clare, Ireland, at the Falls Hotel.

The new dates for the conference are **May 17-22, 2022** with the theme '**Edges of Exile and Belonging**' - it is as relevant today as it was in 2020, perhaps even more so given the isolation we have all experienced recently.

We are expecting a big in-person turnout so we are advising everyone to book their **accommodation** as soon as possible. You will find more information and the **promo code** for the Falls hotel here:

[Accommodation Information and Promo Code](#)

If you have any difficulty booking via this link, please contact the hotel directly by phone or email and they will get back to you immediately. When the Falls hotel reaches full capacity, attendees will be referred to the nearby Lahinch hotel. Alternatively, attendees can use Airbnb, Booking.com, or similar platforms to secure accommodation.

It goes without saying that **Health & Safety** is a priority so the necessary precautionary measures and IAAGT policy for the conference will be in place and posted on our website in 2022. For now, as a general guideline, we advise all attendees to familiarize themselves with the current regulations being imposed by the Irish government:

https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/covid19/living_with_covid19_plan.html

Registration opens in December 2021

Click below for more detailed information:

[Conference Website & Information](#)

The website will be continuously updated, so please visit our site regularly to keep informed.

For those of you who are not yet members of the IAAGT, this is a great time to connect and join our ever-expanding community. For information on membership options and benefits, see below, or contact our admin officer Nicola Ray: admin@iaagt.org

[IAAGT Membership](#)

We're looking forward to seeing you all in Ireland next May. Until then, stay safe.

Deirdre Foley & Maryanne Nicholls
Conference Co-Conveners



Ennistimon by Louis Walsh

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INVITATION TO JOIN THE PROCESS GROUPS

Invitation to Join the Process Group Committee for the IAAGT's conference, 'Edges of Exile and Belonging'

The Process Group Committee invites you to process groups at the **'Edges of Exile and Belonging'** conference. As a reminder, the conference is scheduled to take place **May 17-22, 2022** at the Falls Hotel in Ennistymon, Co. Clare, Ireland.

We on the Process Group Committee are very excited about planning and implementing Process Groups (PG's) for this conference.

Your talent and experience are needed bring PG's to our May 2022 conference! We're looking for people to join our committee to help plan and implement PG's, which have made a wonderful contribution to our previous IAAGT conference experiences. You can support PG's by stating your interest when registering for the conference. Facilitating PG's has been repeatedly recognized as a deeply meaningful and rewarding experience.

In addition to stating your interest during conference registration, please contact Perry Klepner at perry302@aol.com to begin the conversation.

We look forward to sharing and creating this conference experience with you!

Warm regards,

Perry Klepner on behalf of the Process Group Committee:

Claire Asherson Bartram; Marian O'Donnell Byrne; Alessandra Merizzi; Alessandra Vela; Rose Burrows; Judy Graham; Sari Scheinberg, PhD.

View a brief description of Process Groups [here](#).

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CALL FOR VENUE AND CONVENERS FOR THE IAAGT 2024 CONFERENCE

Dear Members

We will be deciding our **2024 Conference venue** at our Annual General Meeting in May 2022, and need time to discuss proposals before then.

If you and colleagues would like to host our 2024 Conference;

If you know of a suitable site;

If you know of someone or a group whom you would like to encourage to host the conference;

PLEASE LET US KNOW!

There are others with previous experience that are quite willing to offer help, advice, suggestions, and support.

The deadline for submitting a proposal is March 20, 2022

Thank you for considering this. We look forward to receiving your proposals.

If you have questions or need support at all, please contact Nicola at admin@iaagt.org

SUBMIT A VENUE PROPOSAL NOW

Warmly,

Eduardo Rubio Ramírez
IAAGT President

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INTEGRATING SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY WITH GESTALT THERAPY IN BRAZIL

A short view on integrating social psychology with Gestalt Therapy in Brazil by Fernando Cocolichio

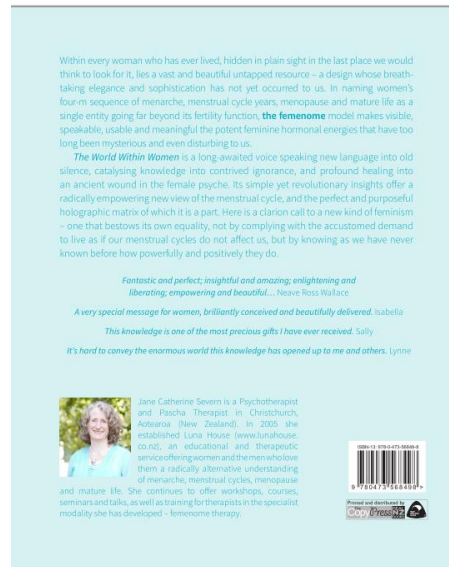
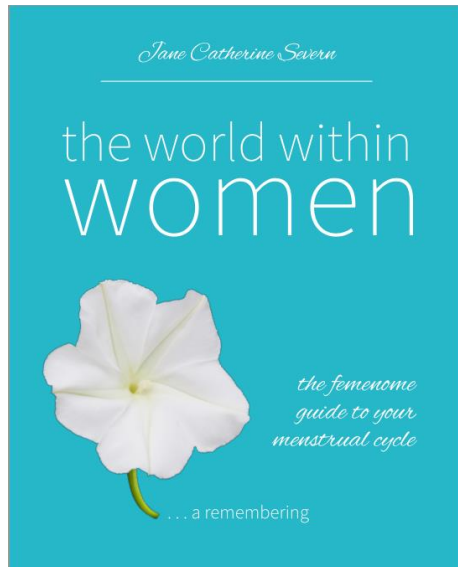
In this description of a high social vulnerability case of guaranteeing human rights in Brazil in face of violence. This short article also proposes to challenge the perspective of intersection of Gestalt-therapy applied in the city. The case concerns an elderly person and his family who were assisted by a social protection service called Centro Dia para Idosos - CDI (Daily Center for Elderly). Conventionally we'll adopt Jonah's fictitious name for him. Laura, Tina and Carlos, for his children.

The CDI assists seniors who are in a context of violence in the city of São Paulo and who also have need for care at activities of daily living - such as person who has reduced mobility, dementia, Alzheimer's, among others. It is a service integrated into the national Brazilian protection network called SUAS (Unified Social Assistance System). The care takes place during the day by bringing the elderly to a social and community space and taking them back home at night. This movement is called reference and counter-reference, because at the same time that it proposes to remove the elderly from a violating environment and provide the experience of significant social experiences, it also works with the home environment and the elderly's family - in understanding the violation context and the multiple interventions necessary to overcome it. There is a multidisciplinary team in this service consisting of a psychologist, social worker, nurse, nutritionist and occupational therapist and caregivers. This institutional configuration is unique in the city of São Paulo.

Read the full article [here](#).

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A NEW F-WORD FOR THERAPISTS TO EMBRACE



Hello Gestalt friends

I want to introduce to you a book I've recently published that may be of great interest to those of you who are women, live with women, or practice therapy with women clients.

The genesis of this work was the recognition during my training in the 1990s that there exists a profoundly significant element of Field Theory to which we psychotherapists have not yet paid sufficient attention: a natural feminine gestalt so alienated from our awareness as to not even be named. Although this first volume is written for a general readership (a dedicated therapists' volume will follow later in the series), your therapeutic eye will quickly discern within its radically phenomenological approach the potential for a new diagnostic and remedial paradigm, freshly minted language, and an essential shift in consciousness for our therapy with women.

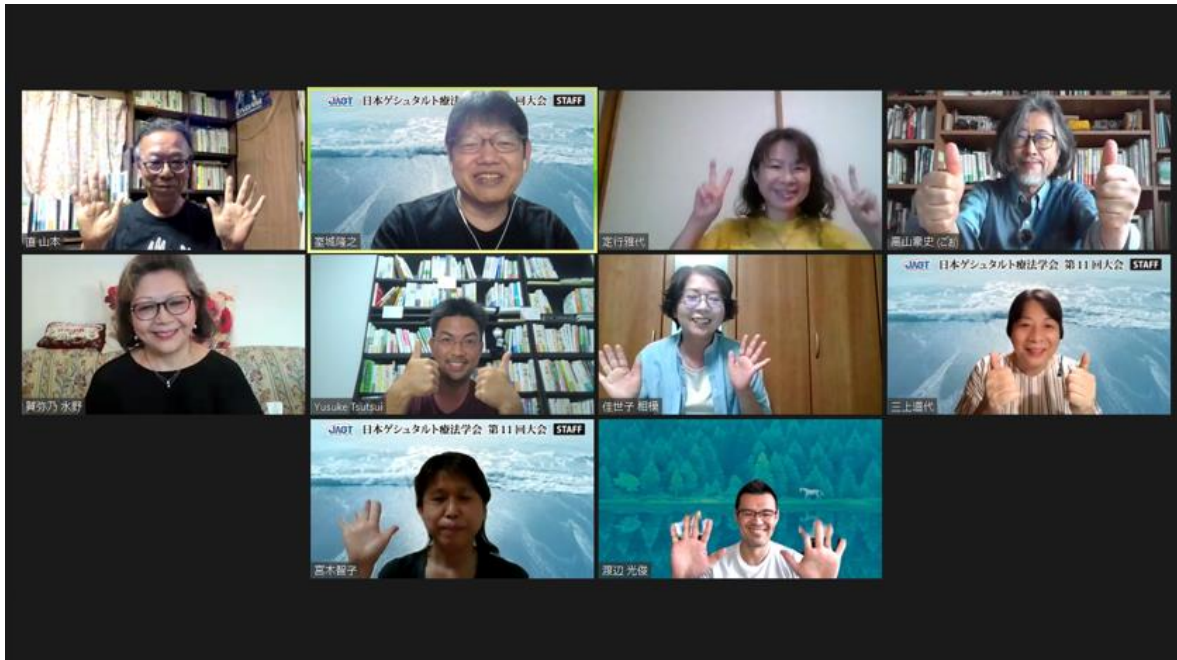
Readers are invited to recognise and move beyond conscious and unconscious *personal resistances* internalised from the field of *cultural resistance* to women's hormonal events in which we are all steeped. We are then re-oriented to the cycle-logical **femenome** model in which the "4M" sequence of Menarche, Menstrual Cycle years, Menopause and Mature Life is re-recognised as a unified entity, a matrix of psycho-spiritual development, and the complete lexicon of spiritual and energetic information for being female that is stored in every woman's hormonal circuitry. The final two chapters offer practical applications and implications for *conscious menstruality* as a daily way of life, and a genuinely feminine enhancement of our self-understanding, work, creativity, relationships and sexuality. There are plenty of reflections, exercises and meditations throughout

the book to assist readers to come to know the **femenome** experientially, rather than just cognitively.

Read the full article [here](#).

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NEWS FROM THE JAPANESE ASSOCIATION OF GESTALT THERAPY



The JAGT held our 11th Annual National Conference on July 23-25, 2021, which coincided with the weekend as IAAGT's Annual General Meeting and also with the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games in Tokyo. The 141 Japanese Gestalt lovers gathered on full Zoom conference titled, ***"Learning how to live with the use of Gestalt Therapy Pedagogy – What Gestalt Therapy is aiming for, and what JAGT is aiming for –"*** providing lectures, symposium, research presentations and workshops.

We were honored to welcome Dr. Ansel Woldt, Emeritus Professor, Kent State University, Ohio, USA and Gestalt Archivist of IAAGT, as well as the Overseas Advisor for JAGT to deliver the keynote address to open our conference. Under the lecture on ***"Gestalt Pedagogical Philosophy and Methodology – A Way of Life,"*** Dr. Woldt shared some traumatic experiences of his life with us teaching us the importance of GT is for a facilitator's being in "here and now" with a client and paying respect to a client who has strived through his/her life -- gaining wisdom from life's challenges. He concluded his presentation with a demonstration therapy with a member. The great impact of this therapy session was reported by the member himself two days later by presenting his improvement during his own workshop. Gestalt Magic!

Dr. Woldt's workshop the next day: ***"Here and Now, I and Thou, What and How: Presence, Dialogue, and Process -- The Essence of Gestalt Therapy,"*** in which he indicated that the apparent reality is where the client's most important issues emerge by **"staying with what is"** and **"attending to the obvious."** A Gestalt facilitator best not evaluate or judge what emerges from the client; but rather accepts as it is and be honest with his/her own feelings, which are dependent on human senses, including the facilitator's instinct. Showing us how to relate to clients in a relational Gestalt manner, Dr. Woldt taught us much on philosophy, methodology and the essence of GT throughout his lecture and workshop. Thank you, Ansel, for saying at the end, *"I am looking forward to seeing you the next time I visit Japan!"*



Read the full article [here](#).

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IN MEMORIA: VIOLET OAKLANDER

Violet Oaklander

18 April 1927 ~ 21 September 2021



It is with great sadness that I inform members that Violet Oaklander, aged 94, passed away peacefully on September 21st. She was a pioneer who integrated Gestalt Therapy Theory and practice with play -therapy, bringing an accessible sensory rich and experience -near approach to child and adolescent psychotherapy. Her books, *Windows to Our Children* and *Hidden Treasure* became best sellers; they have been translated into many languages affording Violet international renown for her relational projective arts -based approach to Gestalt Therapy with young people.

When I first met Violet in 1999 at AAGT's Manhattan conference I was enthralled by her creativity, wisdom and the vitality and warmth of her presence. I immediately signed up to her annual summer intensive in Santa Barbara the following year. Her training had a life- changing effect on me and on so many others. Over the years that followed she became my mentor and a dear friend.

Violet was truly an inspiration to many of us who sought to follow in her footsteps. She took a keen interest in the outreach work of the Oaklander Foundation of which she was a founding member, remaining an active participant in the Just For Now series of online training seminars until very recently. Throughout the Pandemic the Oaklander Model also found a regular home within CAIG, IAAGT's Child & Adolescent Interest Group, providing regular dialogue and support to child therapists across continents. Violet's legacy continues to flourish; her ideas from practice, training and writing over so many years have greatly influenced generations of children, families and therapists. She will be greatly missed.

Her obituary can be found in the Los Angeles Times:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/latimes/name/violet-oaklander-obituary?pid=200216295>

also on the Violet Solomon Oaklander Foundation website: www.vsof.org/.

Rest in peace, Violet.

Jon

Jon Blend MA, Dip Psych, Dip Child, CQSW

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GESTALT CHILD PSYCHOTHERAPY: VIOLET OAKLANDER METHOD



Gestalt Child Psychotherapy Violet Oaklander Method

Facilitator: Jon Blend MA Dip Child CQSW

*Includes theory, experiential, 'live' demonstrations, discussion. dyadic work
Learn to engage children in a contactual dialogue that enhances awareness, self-expression
and choicefulness using the following arts modalities:*

[drawing](#), [clay](#), [sand tray](#), [music making](#), [movement](#), [drama](#), [haiku](#), [puppets](#)

5 CPD
Days: 20 Jan – 15 Sept 2022
West London, UK

Lovely accessible venue, good ventilation, Covid protocol.
NB: Option to join advanced supervision group afterwards.
For details / booking click **events** link at www.gacp.co.uk.

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ONLINE AND IN-PERSON STUDY GROUP FOR GESTALT THERAPY

A ONCE-A-MONTH INTERNET AND IN-PERSON STUDY GROUP FOR "Gestalt Therapy"

by Fritz Perls, Ralph Hefferline and Paul Goodman

Hi Everyone. I hope this announcement finds you and your loved ones well.

I am organizing a new study group for "Gestalt Therapy" by Fritz Perls, Ralph Hefferline and Paul Goodman, (PHG) for this October and may add members to existing groups as appropriate. These are in-person for those residing in NYC when possible due to Covid and by Internet using Zoom.

The PHG study groups are a rich opportunity for learning GT. While I like the written work of many accomplished practitioners PHG is Gestalt Therapy's foundational text. It sets out to make a comprehensive statement of human experience and explain a radical new approach to therapy. It draws on western culture referencing various fields, of study and presents gestalt therapy's unitary psychological orientation in aesthetics, experimentation, and existential phenomenology. It is dense and difficult to understand. Isadore From said it was meant to be read as a tutored work. For experienced practitioners it can be an inspiring text to go back to and study not only for its unique written content but for the experience that supports the experiential gestaltist approach to practice. Goodman's orientation as a writer, poet, dramatist, analyst, philosopher, sociologist, teacher and Perl's genius for innovative thinking can make its reading a grounding and creative experience for discovering/developing one's GT viewpoint.

In the "old days" PHG was taught/studied, line-by-line, by New York Institute founders. This study group will follow their path emphasizing an experiential process-oriented approach of deconstructing and clarifying the text so it can be understood, appreciated and related to practice. It will include members group, personal and professional work experiences in a collegial small group process of up to ten members that will emphasize both text and personal/group experience to support learning. Proceeding in this unified way this foundational presentation of the theory of "excitement and growth of the human personality" can be understood, enlivened and participants can further develop their own "Gestaltist" perspective, talents, and strengths as practitioners and interested persons.

Read the full article [here](#).

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THE GESTALT INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTRE: WORKSHOPS

www.gisc.org



The Cape Cod Training Program (Live-Online)

Develop Presence, Insight, and Skills for High-Impact Interventions with the Cape Cod Model®.

The Cape Cod Training Program (CCTP) offers the opportunity to change the way you see human behavior, human connections and human potential in the workplace and in everyday life.

CCTP teaches a specific process of intervening for the highest possible impact for individuals, dyads and small groups/work-teams. The program is structured so that content and theory presentations are followed by intensive small group practice sessions in which the foundational principles are applied.

"The Cape Cod Model gave me a coherent, simple framework, almost a new aesthetic, through which to understand human interactions. What I learned is a continued source of clarity about how we relate to each other."

For more information and the full list of workshops, click [here](#).

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WEBINARS WITH DAN BLOOM

Dan Bloom, JD, LCSW
Psychotherapy, Supervision, and Training in Gestalt Therapy
220 West Fifteenth Street
New York, New York 10011
USA
www.danbloomnyc.com
01 212 674 0404

PHG: A Theory of Reference for Gestalt Therapy from a Field-Emergent Perspective

The original 1951 theory in *Gestalt Therapy, Excitement and Growth* by Perls, Hefferline, and Goodman has served us well. It has been central to gestalt therapy. It is showing its age. Is it still useful?

This 8-session 90 minute webinar critically examines this original theory and argues for its place as a theory of reference for contemporary gestalt therapy. Webinar members can expect to learn this original theory as we challenge its orthodoxy.

Special focus is on the theory of self, sequence of contacting, the contact-boundary and the organism/environment field.

Introduction to Phenomenology for Gestalt Therapists

This 8-session, 90-minute webinar introduces major phenomenologists who are directly relevant to our contemporary practice— Husserl, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, Levinas and Waldenfels.

I stress their significance to contemporary gestalt therapy — and how each is reflected in the historical developments of gestalt therapy's approaches from the one-person to the field-emergent models.

How phenomenology applies to our actual clinical work is an essential part of this webinar. Members are encouraged to bring clinical examples into the discussion. The online seminar is both didactic and interactive.

For more information click [here](#).

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THE GESTALT INSTITUTE OF CLEVELAND: WORKSHOPS



GIC OFFICE: 216-421-0468
<http://www.gestaltcleveland.org>

**** Coach Certification Program ****

The Gestalt approach to coaching is dynamic, holistic, and creative. Based on the Gestalt Coaching Stance™, unique to the Gestalt Institute of Cleveland, the Program is dedicated to building capacity for your coaching presence and its impact, while deepening your coaching knowledge and

skills. Application of International Coach Federation (ICF) core competencies is an integral part of your learning.

**** Recovering the Sacred Feminine in a Patriarchal World (Women's Work and Empowerment Series) ****

In this time of great turbulence, it is imperative to recover the voice and presence of the feminine to cultivate balance in our world. As we acknowledge the cultural introjects of our divisive and dominant patriarchal society, such as internalized misogyny, we bring awareness of the obstacles that imprison, disconnect and alienate us from our sensual authority and each other. Let us restore and weave feminine principles of radical collaboration, receptivity, co-creativity and deep relatedness back into all things as we reclaim our sacred power.

**** VIRTUAL - Gestalt Coaching Supervision ****

Coach Supervision is for the coach and their supervisor to reflect together and have over-sight of the coach's practice in service of them being the very best coach they can be. Coaching Supervision offers coaches an opportunity to access professional development through reflection and dialogue in a safe, supportive and confidential space. [adapted, ICF website]

**** The Transformative Power of Embodied Ritual (Women's Work and Empowerment Series) ****

For thousands of years, cultures around the world have created and preserved rituals. This fundamental aspect of expression and community has been largely lost in our fast paced and fragmented modern existence, especially the rituals by and for Women. Let us reclaim and restore the lost art and practice of ritual making. Many of us long for a way to go through our day-to-day lives more intentionally and with whole-heartedness and reverence. As we face the immensity of what's happening in our world at this critical time and recognize our growing need for connection, rituals can help us find meaning and a sense of purpose and belonging.

Find more information and the full list of workshops [here](#).

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HEALING TRAUMA IN THE PATH TO RECOVERY



Trauma and addiction a Gestalt approach (winter 2021/2022)

Facilitator: Rafael Cortina, MFT, MBA, CCTP

Description:

Traumatic childhood and life events shape the way individuals see themselves and the world which has a direct impact on relationships, self-perception, coping skills, self-esteem, etc. Unfortunately, a common and initially effective way of managing the impact of trauma and adjusting to the world is through addictive behaviors. They provide temporary relief and anesthetize emotional and relational pain. The focus of this 6-module training is to provide a deeper understanding on the relationship between addiction and trauma, the role of the nervous system, adverse childhood experiences, polyvagal theory, and the application of this knowledge through the framework of Gestalt Psychotherapy to support healing experiences. This training will focus on teaching a clinical model of treatment for Trauma and addiction through Gestalt perspective to help clients develop their ability to explore the contact boundary and build new experiences that may lead to growth opportunities and recovery.

The training is divided into six 3-hour modules facilitated via zoom.

Each module will be a combination of lecture, modelling, and practice.

Schedule:

- Dec 4th: **Module 1:** Understanding Trauma and Addiction from a gestalt perspective.
- Dec 18th: **Module 2:** Assessment and nervous system regulation.
- Jan 8th: **Module 3:** Resources Development and supporting early sobriety.
- Jan 22nd: **Module 4:** Treatment model Part 1.
- Feb 5th: **Module 5:** Treatment model Part 2.
- Feb 19th: **Module 6:** Groups, Couples, and family work.

***All modules will be recorded and available to view for participants that need to miss a live presentation.**

View full course information [here](#).

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